

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 00643 281455Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03
LAB-04 SIL-01 OC-06 CCO-00 WRDE-00 PA-01 IO-13
/075 W

-----063203 282227Z /75

R 281420Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2069
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 0643

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, ELAB, TD
SUBJECT: BWIA PILOTS' STRIKE

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 590 AND PREVIOUS

1. BWIA ENDED ITS CHARTER OPERATIONS OVER THE WEEKEND AND NOW
HAS NO PLANES IN THE AIR, ITS OWN OR CHARTERED. THE AIRLINE
IS NO LONGER ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS FOR FUTURE FLIGHTS.

2. TRINIDAD IS RIFE WITH RUMORS THAT BWIA WILL CLOSE UP SHOP
PERMANENTLY, WILL RECONSTITUTE ITSELF AS A "NEW" COMPANY,
OR WILL MERGE WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AIR SERVICES (TTAS).
REASON BEHIND FIRST ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO RID COUNTRY OF
MONEY-LOSING VENTURE THAT LONG HAS BEEN COSTLY TO TAXPAYERS,
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WHILE SECOND OR THIRD ALTERNATIVES PRESUMABLY WOULD ENABLE
BWIA TO BEGIN OPERATIONS AGAIN UNENCUMBERED BY PREVIOUS
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS AND STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS.
THE PRESS, HOWEVER, HAS QUOTED BWIA OFFICIALS TO EFFECT
THAT THE AIRLINE IS NOT RPT NOT CLOSING DOWN.

3. INDUSTRIAL COURT'S CONCILIATION EFFORTS HAVE BOGGED

DOWN, WITH NO MEETING SBEING HELD WITH EITHER SIDE FOR OVER A WEEK. PILOT SOURCE HAS TOLD LABOFF THAT COMPANY OFFICIALS HAVE ADMITTED PRIVATELY TO PILOTS THAT BWIA DOES NOT HAVE AUTHORITY (FROM GOTT) TO ALTER ITS PRESENT BARGAINING POSITION.

4. "GUARDIAN" OF FEBRUARY 27 REPORTS THAT PM WILLIAMS THIS WEEK WILL ASSESS THE OVERALL SITUATION RELATING TO BWIA. THIS WOULD MEAN THE FIRST OFFICIAL INVOLVEMENT OF THE PM IIN THE BWIA PILOTS' STRIKE AND LENDS SOME CREDENCE TO CURRENT RUMORS THAT GOTT IS ABOUT TO MAKE IMPORTANT DECISIONS CONCERNING BWIA.

5. LOCAL PRESS CONTINUES TO URGE EDITORIALY THAT BOTH SIDES IN DISPUTE MAKE CONCESSIONS TO GET BWIA PLANES IN THE AIR AGAIN.

6. COMMENT. THE END OF BWIA'S CHARTERING OPERATION MAY HAVE COME ABOUT BECAUSE OF IFALPA PRESSURE, OR IT MIGHT SIMPLY HAVE COST BWIA TOO MUCH. AT ANY RATE, IT SETS THE STAGE FOR DEFINITIVE ACTION BY THE GOTT WHICH IS WIDELY EXPECTED TO OCCUR THIS WEEK.
YOHN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR STRIKES, AIRPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PORTO00643
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780092-0820
Format: TEL
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978023/aaaaacgh.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4eb5b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PORT OF SPAIN 590
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3526946
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BWIA PILOTS' STRIKE
TAGS: EAIR, ELAB, TD, BWIA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4eb5b7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014